

Listing of the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A communications platform that enables ~~individuals~~ users to receive ~~[[XML]]~~ electronic ~~SmartMessages~~ messages from corporations and others comprising a message-processing platform, said processing platform comprising logic for:

receiving an electronic message for a user, the electronic message comprising a routing indicator;

accessing a user-defined endpoint table, the endpoint table correlating endpoints with routing indicators;

selecting at least one endpoint from a plurality of endpoints based on the routing indicator in the electronic message and the user-defined endpoint table; and

automatic intelligent routing at least a portion of the electronic message to the at least one endpoint such that said processing platform can receive an XML-based electronic SmartMessages from an XML SmartMessage sender and route said XML-based SmartMessage on behalf of an individual user.

2. (Currently Amended) The communications platform in claim 1, wherein ~~said message processing platform further provides the organization, summation, filing, storage, synthesis, formatting and intelligent processing of XML-based electronic SmartMessages~~ the routing indicator is an XML routing indicator.

3. (Currently Amended) The communications platform in claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, wherein ~~said XML electronic SmartMessage comprises at least one standardized XML tag and at least one sender-defined XML tag~~ the processing platform comprises a server.

4. (Currently Amended) The communications platform in claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1, wherein ~~said sender-defined XML tag comprises an envelope, said envelope comprising a header and a document~~ the routing indicator comprises an attribute of the electronic message; and
wherein the attribute is selected from the group consisting of reach, immediacy, sensitivity, content, expiration, and context.

5. (Currently Amended) The communications platform in claim [[3]]2, wherein said ~~sender-defined XML [[tag]]~~ routing indicator comprises a ~~SmartMessage~~ an electronic message definition document, wherein said definition document is used by the communications platform to automatically determine how to display, summarize and process the [[XML]] electronic message ~~SmartMessage~~.

6. (Currently Amended) The communications platform in claim 5, wherein said electronic message ~~SmartMessage~~-definition document comprises an entity and a class.

7. (Currently Amended) The communications platform in claim [[3]]1, wherein said ~~user-defined XML tag~~ comprises a receipt document, said receipt document specifies a ~~SmartMessage processing server response~~ the routing indicator of the electronic message comprises immediacy indicating time sensitivity of the electronic message;

A2 wherein the endpoint table comprises user-assigned endpoints based on the immediacy of the electronic message; and

wherein the server reviews the electronic message for the immediacy attribute to determine, based on the endpoint table, to which endpoint to route at least a portion of the electronic message.

8. (Currently Amended) The communications platform in claim 2, further comprising an ~~Informant~~ a sender stylesheet and a ~~SmartMessage~~ an electronic message stylesheet, wherein said ~~Informant~~ sender stylesheet describes meta-data pertaining to ~~the informant~~ a sender, said ~~SmartMessage~~ electronic message stylesheet describes an activity and an event.

9. (Currently Amended) The communications platform in claim 8, wherein said meta-data includes information pertaining to the ~~Informant~~ sender's name, website address, and industry category.

10. (Currently Amended) The communications platform in claim [[8]]2, wherein said ~~Informant stylesheet further authenticates the Informant~~ the electronic message comprises an attribute and a reference to a stylesheet, the stylesheet including definitions for the plurality of attributes; and

wherein the processing platform accesses the stylesheet based on the reference in the electronic message to define the attribute.

11. (Currently Amended) The communications platform in claim ~~[[8]]~~10, wherein said ~~SmartMessage Stylesheet further describes the XML schemas of said activity and event, and defines how the activity and event is transmitted to at least one endpoint~~ the attribute of the electronic message comprises immediacy indicating time sensitivity of the electronic message;

wherein the endpoint table comprises user-assigned endpoints based on the immediacy of the electronic message; and

wherein the server reviews the electronic message for the immediacy attribute to determine, based on the endpoint table, to which endpoint to route at least a portion of the electronic message.

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12. (Original) The communications platform in claim 1, wherein said at least one endpoint comprises an electronic mail box, a wired or wireless telephone, a facsimile machine, a paging device, or a personal digital assistant.

13. (Currently Amended) The communications platform in claim 8, wherein said ~~Informant sender~~ stylesheet and said ~~SmartMessage~~ electronic message ~~stylesheet~~ reside on said ~~Informant sender's~~ web servers.

14. (Currently Amended) A communications platform that enables individuals users to receive ~~[[XML]]~~ electronic ~~SmartMessages~~ messages from corporations and others comprising a ~~highly scalable XML messaging engine capable of receiving and storing information pertaining to an individual user's communications environment~~ message-processing platform, said processing platform comprising logic for:

receiving an electronic message for a user, the electronic message comprising a routing indicator;

accessing a user-defined endpoint table, the endpoint table correlating endpoints with routing indicators;

receiving formatting data for formatting at least some of the electronic message on each of the plurality of endpoints;

selecting at least one endpoint from a plurality of endpoints based on the routing indicator in the electronic message and the user-defined endpoint table;

formatting at least a portion of the electronic message based on the formatting data for the at least one endpoint; and

routing at least a portion of the formatted electronic message to the at least one endpoint.

15. (Currently Amended) The communications platform in claim 14, wherein the formatting data comprises a stylesheet~~said individual user's communication environment comprises at least one endpoint, said at least one endpoint comprises an electronic mail box, a wired or wireless telephone, a facsimile machine, a paging device, or a personal digital assistant.~~

16. (Currently Amended) The communications platform in claim 15, wherein the electronic message includes the routing indicator and a reference to the stylesheet~~said platform creates rules for communication based on pre-defined system defaults.~~

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17. (Currently Amended) The communications platform in claim 16, wherein the routing indicator comprises one of a plurality of events~~said rules for communication are further based on the user's preferences and the attributes of a SmartMessage.~~

18. (Original) The communications platform in claim 15, wherein said endpoint is automatically created by a service provider and transmitted to an individual's communication platform.

19. (Original) The communications platform in claim 18, wherein said endpoint comprises an electronic mail box, a wired or wireless telephone, a facsimile machine, a paging device, or a personal digital assistant.

20. (Original) The communications platform in claim 16, further comprising a website, said website being accessible by the users of the communications platform.

21. (Currently Amended) The communications platform in claim 20, wherein users of said communications platform can modify ~~the rules of the platform~~ the user-defined endpoint table by accessing the website.

22. (Currently Amended) The communications platform in claim 21, wherein said modification of the ~~rules~~ the user-defined endpoint table comprises configuring at least one ~~endpoint and routing SmartMessages.~~

23. (Currently Amended) The communications platform in claim 20, wherein said website further comprising delivery information pertaining to ~~informant~~ senders, activity and events, and Endpoints.

24. (Currently Amended) The communications platform in claim 16, wherein said ~~SmartMessage~~ electronic message is delivered either by the Simple Mail Transfer Protocol, or the Hypertext Transfer Protocol, to a receiving server.

claims 25-31. (Cancelled)

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32. (Currently Amended) A communications platform that enables ~~individual~~ users to receive electronic messages from corporations and others comprising a nickname-based routing system, said nickname-based routing system ~~configured to enable a sender of an electronic message to transmit to receiver said message to at least one of said receiver's endpoints by defining said endpoint comprising logic for:~~

receiving an electronic message;

parsing the electronic message to determine a designation for a user;

parsing the electronic message to determine a nickname of an endpoint designated in the electronic message;

accessing a database to determine an address and type of an endpoint to route the electronic message to based on the nickname;

formatting at least a portion of the electronic message based on the determined type of endpoint; and

sending at least a portion of the formatted message to the determined address of the endpoint.

33. (Currently Amended) The communications platform in claim 32, wherein said ~~specific user's~~ endpoint comprises an electronic mail box, a wired or wireless telephone, a facsimile machine, a paging device, or a personal digital assistant.

34. (Original) The communications platform in claim 33, wherein said nickname-based routing system comprises at least one address containing a nickname.

35. (Original) The communications platform in claim 34, wherein said nickname comprises information pertaining to said receiver's name and endpoint.

36. (Original) The communications platform in claim 35, wherein said nickname further comprises information pertaining to said endpoint.

37. (Original) The communications platform in claim 36, wherein said information pertaining to said endpoint comprises a telephone number, a facsimile number, a pager number, an electronic address or a resident address.

38. (Currently Amended) A communications platform that enables ~~individuals~~ users to receive ~~XML~~ electronic SmartMessages ~~messages~~ from corporations and others comprising a message processing platform, said message processing platform comprising logic for: ~~at least one information folio, said communication platform capable of organizing a received SmartMessage into said at least one information folio~~

receiving a first electronic message, the first electronic message for an activity having an activity status;

organizing the first electronic message in an information folio based on the activity;

receiving a second electronic message, the second electronic message for an event in the activity;

parsing the second electronic message to determine whether the second electronic message comprises a definition to update the activity status; and

if the second electronic message comprises a definition to update the activity status, updating the activity status for the activity.

39. (Currently Amended) The communications platform in claim ~~[[39]]~~ 38, wherein said ~~organizing a received SmartMessage~~ the first electronic message comprises intelligently storing, displaying and synthesizing said ~~SmartMessage~~ first electronic message received by the platform into said at least one information folio, said information folio capable of being organized into at least one activity and at least one event.

40. (Original) The communications platform in claim 39, wherein said at least one activity and said at least one event are sender definable, said at least one event is applied to said at least one activity in said at least one information folio.

41. (Original) The communications platform in claim 40, wherein said at least one activity comprises a bank statement, a retail order, a travel itinerary, a home alarm status or messages.

42. (Original) The communications platform in claim 40, wherein said at least one event comprises a payment received, order confirmation, shipping confirmation, airline confirmation or an alarm triggered.

A2 43. (Original) The communications platform in claim 40, wherein a status of said at least one activity is updated based on the definition of the sender when said at least one event is applied to said at least one activity.

44. (Currently Amended) The communications platform in claim 43, wherein ~~said individual~~ a user designated to receive the first electronic message is alerted upon receiving ~~[[a]]~~ the first electronic message from a sender.

45. (Currently Amended) The communications platform in claim 39, further comprising a website, wherein said at least one information folio ~~[[is]]~~ can be accessed for review of said at least one activity and said at least one event.

46. (Currently Amended) A communications platform that enables ~~individuals~~ users to receive ~~XML-electronic SmartMessages~~ messages from corporations and others comprising a message-processing platform, said processing platform comprising logic for: ~~configured such that said platform is perceived to reside on said corporation's website, said platform providing automatic intelligent routing such that said corporation can route said XML-based SmartMessage to an individual user~~

receiving the electronic message for a user, the electronic message comprising a routing indicator;

selecting a first endpoint from the plurality of endpoints based on the routing indicator;

routing at least a portion of the electronic message to the first endpoint;

based on the routing indicator, determining whether the user received the at least a portion of the electronic message at the first endpoint;

if the user has not received the electronic message, selecting a second endpoint from the plurality of endpoints; and

routing a portion of the message to the second endpoint.

47. (Currently Amended) The communications platform in claim 46, ~~further comprising the ability to receive an XML-based electronic SmartMessages from an XML SmartMessage sender~~ wherein determining whether the user received the at least a portion of the electronic message at the first endpoint comprising receiving acknowledgment.

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48. (Currently Amended) The communications platform in claim 46, wherein ~~said communications platform further provides the organization, summation, filing, storage, synthesis and intelligent processing of XML-based electronic SmartMessages~~ the acknowledgement is received from the first endpoint.

49. (Currently Amended) The communications platform in claim ~~[[48]]46~~, wherein ~~said communications platform further comprises the ability for a user to access the communications platform by initially accessing the corporation's website~~ further comprising determining whether the electronic message is urgent; and

wherein determining whether the user received the at least a portion of the electronic message at the first endpoint, selecting a second endpoint from the plurality of endpoints, and routing a portion of the message to the second endpoint are based on the determination whether the electronic message is urgent.

50. (Currently Amended) The communications platform in claim 49, wherein ~~said corporation can send SmartMessages to said user through at least one endpoint~~ the routing indicator indicates urgency of the electronic message.

51. (Original) The communications platform in claim 50, said at least one endpoint comprises an electronic mail box, a wired or wireless telephone, a facsimile machine, a paging device, or a personal digital assistant.

52. (Currently Amended) The communications platform in claim 46, further comprising ~~an Informant~~ a sender stylesheet and a ~~SmartMessage~~ an electronic message stylesheet, wherein said ~~Informant~~ sender stylesheet describes meta-data pertaining to the informant, said ~~SmartMessage~~ electronic message stylesheet describes an activity and an event.

53. (Currently Amended) The communications platform in claim 52, wherein said meta-data includes information pertaining to the ~~Informant~~ sender's name, website address, and industry category.

54. (Currently Amended) The communications platform in claim 52, further comprising logic for examining the sender stylesheet to authenticate the sender ~~wherein said Informant stylesheet further authenticates the Informant.~~

A2 55. (Currently Amended) The communications platform in claim 52, wherein said ~~SmartMessage~~ electronic message Stylesheet further describes the XML schemas of said activity and event, and defines how the activity and event is transmitted to at least one endpoint.

56. (Original) The communications platform in claim 55, wherein said at least one endpoint comprises an electronic mail box, a wired or wireless telephone, a facsimile machine, a paging device, or a personal digital assistant.

57. (Original) The communications platform in claim 52, wherein said Informant stylesheet and said SmartMessage stylesheet reside on said Informant's web servers.

58. (Currently Amended) A communications platform that enables ~~individuals~~ users to receive ~~XML electronic SmartMessages~~ electronic messages from corporations and others comprising a message-processing platform, said processing platform comprising ~~automatic intelligent routing such that said processing platform can receive an XML-based electronic SmartMessages from an XML SmartMessage sender and route said XML-based SmartMessage to an individual user at an endpoint, said message processing platform further comprising the ability to require said individual receiving said XML SmartMessage to respond to said message logic for:~~

receiving an electronic message from a sender for a user, the electronic message comprising a routing indicator and a request for a response;

accessing a user-defined endpoint table, the endpoint table correlating endpoints with routing indicators;

receiving formatting data for formatting at least some of the electronic message on each of the plurality of endpoints;

selecting at least one endpoint from a plurality of endpoints based on the routing indicator in the electronic message and the user-defined endpoint table;

formatting at least a portion of the electronic message based on the formatting data for the at least one endpoint;

routing at least a portion of the formatted electronic message to the at least one endpoint;

receiving a response to the formatted electronic message sent from the at least one endpoint;

gathering information from the response; and

sending at least a portion of the information to the sender.

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59. (Currently Amended) The communications platform in claim 58, ~~wherein said message processing platform further provides the organization, summation, filing, storage, synthesis and intelligent processing of XML-based electronic SmartMessages~~ further comprising formatting the information; and

wherein sending at least a portion of the information to the sender comprises sending at least a portion of the formatted information.

60. (Currently Amended) The communications platform in claim 58, ~~wherein said SmartMessage comprises information pertaining to the response, thereby allowing said individual receiving said XML-based electronic message to respond to said message using said endpoint~~ the response to the formatted message comprises a verbal response; and

wherein gathering information from the response comprises using a voice recognition apparatus to process the verbal response.

61. (Currently Amended) The communications platform in claim 60, ~~wherein said endpoint comprises an electronic mail box, a wired or wireless telephone, a facsimile machine, a paging device, or a personal digital assistant~~ wherein routing at least a portion of the formatted

electronic message to the at least one endpoint comprises routing an initial message from the sender, potential responses by the user, and XML-based messages to be sent back to the sender.

62. (New) The communications platform in claim 1, wherein the routing indicator comprises an event associated with the electronic message;

wherein a server reviews the electronic message for the event to determine, based on the endpoint table, to which endpoint to route at least a portion of the electronic message.

63. (New) The communications platform of claim 62, wherein the endpoint table comprises for each of a plurality of events at least one associated user-assigned endpoint.

64. (New) The communications platform of claim 63, wherein the electronic message further comprises a reference to a stylesheet, the stylesheet including definitions for the plurality of events.

A2 65. (New) The communications platform of claim 64, wherein a server accesses the stylesheet based on the reference in the electronic message to define the event.

66. (New) The communications platform in claim 32, wherein the electronic message is addressed to the communications platform.

67. (New) The communications platform in claim 32, wherein the designation for the user comprises a user's name.

68. (New) The communications platform in claim 32, wherein the nickname is selected from the group consisting of phone and fax.

69. (New) The communications platform in claim 32, wherein the nickname was previously designated by the user.

70. (New) The communications platform in claim 32, wherein determining a type of endpoint to route the electronic message to is further based on the designation for the user.

71. (New) The communications platform in claim 32, wherein determining an address of the endpoint comprises accessing the database to determine the address of the endpoint based on the nickname and based on the designation for the user.

72. (New) A communications platform that enables users to receive electronic messages from corporations and others comprising a nickname-based routing system, said nickname-based routing system comprising logic for:

receiving an electronic message;

parsing the electronic message to determine a nickname of an endpoint designated in the electronic message and an address associated with the nickname;

accessing a database to determine a type of endpoint to route the electronic message to based on the nickname;

formatting at least a portion of the electronic message based on the determined type of endpoint; and

sending at least a portion of the formatted message to the determined address of the endpoint.

73. (New) The communications platform in claim 72, further comprising parsing the electronic message to determine a designation for a user; and

wherein sending at least a portion of the formatted message comprises sending on behalf of the user.

74. (New) The communications platform in claim 72, wherein the electronic message is addressed to the communications platform.

75. (New) The communications platform in claim 38, further comprising organizing the second electronic message in the information folio based on the activity.

76. (New) The communications platform in claim 46, wherein selecting a first endpoint from the plurality of endpoints based on the routing indicator is based on a user-defined endpoint table.